

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Discussion on the portion of the Wesely amendment, all of the amendment except for Sections 100 to 122. I have a lot of lights on. I think they were leftover from the others. Senator Landis. I don't see Senator Landis. Senator Lynch. Senator Wesely, did you wish any more discussion? Senator Wehrbein. Senator Robinson. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I rise in support of the amendment, and I rise to speak also to the issue as I had spoken earlier. It is important to me that we understand that now we are going to consider these amendments as they should have been considered, probably, perhaps some time ago, and because we have the process in the manner which it is, it makes it very difficult to discuss these amendments in full. I will not understand in full the amendments which we are going to adopt this morning on 1019. The amendment which Senator Hall and myself and Senator Wesely had offered was easily understood. All of these amendments have merit. All of them deserve to be debated but, ladies and gentlemen, once again we have changed the direction by the failure to adopt the amendment, 4140. We have given a green light to the cost of health care. We will see nothing from the hospitals that will lower the cost of health care. I find many of my rural friends who have voted negatory on this...on the previous amendment, and I find myself totally unable to understand that. I can understand the pressure that comes from the urban areas, and I commend those urban legislators who can withstand that pressure because we can adopt section after section, amendment after amendment. We can do all we can possibly do to make health care more available to people, to provide for quality training, to provide for quality personnel, but, ladies and gentlemen, when you get to be my age or older and you can no longer afford health insurance, if you do not have the ability to pay, and they sit you in the anteroom and make you wait and wait and wait, and treat you like a nonperson, and it has happened. I have had to intervene a number of times because of the failure to deliver health care to individuals who were unfortunate enough not to have health insurance and did not have resources. Ladies and gentlemen, we are doing the people of this state a great disservice to hold the promise on the one hand, and to take it away on the other. I support the amendment and I am appalled that this body did not support the Hall amendment. I would have been glad to have taken my name off if that would have been any help to you. Thank you very much.